<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 11, 2006. Claims 1-10 are presented for examination. Claims 1-4 and 8-10 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1 and 8-10 are in independent form.

In that Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004-0001107 (Russon) in view of U.S. Patent 6,437,797 (Ota). In addition, Claims 4 and 6 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being obvious from those two documents, further in view of U.S. Patent 6,041,543 (Miyashita et al.).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing method which performs a color process on an image by using a color processing parameter determined based on a position on a map representing a color space. That method comprises indicating an arbitrary position on the map representing the color space, and determining the color processing parameter by moving a thumbnail image displayed on the map representing the color space to the indicated arbitrary position on the map. Claim 1 further recites that the color process corresponding to the arbitrary position on the map representing the color space is reflected in the thumbnail image which was moved.

The newly added recitation in independent Claim 1 is clearly supported by the disclosure at page 11, line 23, through page 12, line 2, of the originally filed specification. By virtue of the features of Claim 1, and mentioned above, it is possible to know easily, from the thumbnail image on which the color process corresponding to the

arbitrary position on the map representing the color space has been performed, the color processing result at the designated position.

Russon relates to a system which selects an image from the folder and sequentially displays the thumbnail images obtained by performing the image process to the selected image. Applicants submit that nothing has been found in *Russon* that would teach or suggest an "image processing method which performs a color process on an image by using a color processing parameter determined based on a position on a map representing a color space". Since *Russon* does not disclose "a map representing a color space", it naturally also does not disclose either a method of indicating an arbitrary position on the map representing the color space, or the recited indicating step, of indicating an arbitrary position on such map. For these reasons, Claim 1 believed to be allowable over *Russon* taken alone (as the Examiner is believed to agree, in view of the stated ground of rejection).

In addition, however, it is submitted that one of merely ordinary skill would not in fact even have considered looking to *Russon* for assistance in addressing the problem addressed by the present invention, or for any other purpose relating to color processing. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that the outstanding rejection (and any other based in whole or in part on *Russon*) is improper and should be withdrawn.

Ota relates to a system in which a photographed image recorded by a camera to which the GPS device is connected and the GPS information recorded in correspondence with the relevant photographed image are read, and the thumbnail of the photographed image is displayed at the corresponding position on an electronic map on the basis of the GPS information. Applicants submit, however, that nothing has been found in

Ota that would disclose or suggest an "image processing method which perform a color process on an image by using a color processing parameter determined based on a position on a map representing a color space", as in Claim 1. Here, Ota discloses that the thumbnail of the photographed image corresponding to the position on the electronic map is displayed, but does not appear even to hint at a system relating to color processing, much less to suggest a system in which, as recited in Claim 1, "the color process corresponding to the arbitrary position on the map representing the color space is reflected in the thumbnail image which was moved". Even assuming that it would be proper to combine *Ota* with *Russon*, therefore, and even assuming that *Russon* is a proper reference to use against Applicants' claims, the result of such combination would not meet the terms of Claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of that claim is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 8-10 are apparatus, computer memory medium and program claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claim 1, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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